

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system having an anvil and an ultrasonic blade, the anvil for providing support to a backed ply material during a cutting operation by the ultrasonic blade, the backed ply material comprising a ply material and a backing, and traveling in a first direction, the ultrasonic blade having a cutting profile, the ultrasonic blade being operable to travel along a cutting path, the cutting path being oriented in a transverse manner relative to the first direction, wherein the anvil comprising comprises:

a rigid base for securing the anvil to a cutting assembly;

an inverted "T" shaped channel in the rigid base and coinciding with the cutting path;

a "T" shaped insert to mate with the channel;

a surface on the insert to support the backed ply material, the surface being secured to the base; and

a groove disposed upon the surface and coinciding with the cutting path, the groove being formed in the insert prior to any cutting operation by the ultrasonic blade and having a curved profile corresponding to a tip portion of the cutting profile of the ultrasonic blade, the groove providing support for the backing of the backed ply material during the cutting operation, wherein a such that the backing of the backed ply material is urged into the groove during the cutting operation.

2. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the rigid base comprises a metal base.

3. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 2, wherein the metal base comprises a steel base.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the insert comprises a high pressure laminate.
7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the insert comprises a polymeric material.
8. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 7, wherein the polymeric material comprises an ultra high molecular weight polymer.
9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 7, wherein the polymeric material comprises nylon.

10-24. (Canceled)